

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1361968-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 44

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MEMORANDUM

Date: 12/13/88

TO: SAC, NEW ORLEANS

FROM:

SUBJECT: Authorization to Open and Assign
Below-Listed Case

OPEN A CASE

CLASS: 161

ALPHA: -

CASE SQUAD: 6

OO: HQ

ASSIGNED TO:

[Redacted Box]

STATUS: P

b6
b7C

TITLE:

John Goodwin Tower
STEIN

CASE TYPE: -

(C)ONTROL / (D)ECLINATION / (R)ECORD CHECK / (Z)ERO
(BLANK IF INVESTIGATIVE)
OR ADMINISTRATIVE

consolidate
161-2-810

161A-1124-1
JH JH

WMA
WMA

H

(Title) _____

(File No.) 161A-1124

[illegible]

161A-1124-1A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 08 1989	
FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

Dr

Field File No.

NO 161A-1124 - 1A'

Serial # of Originating Document

OO and File No.

Bureau

Date Received

From

(Name of Contributor)

(Address of Contributor)

By

(Name of Special Agent)

b6
b7CTo Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ NoGrand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure ☐ Yes ☒ No

Title:

Reference:

(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☐ Original notes re interview ofInterview Notes + Rough draft
communications

✓ 2/13/89
11:05 AM

From: SAC, New Orleans (161A-1124)(RUC)
To: Director, FBI (161-20403) (Priority)
Attn: SPIN Unit
Rm 4371
SAC, Dallas (Immediate)
SAC, O.C. (Immediate)

b6
b7C

Subj: John Goodwin Tower
SPIN (A)
OO: FBIHQ

Re: SE tel to FBIHQ, 2/10/89; NO tel to FBIHQ, 2/10/89

For info Dallas, Seattle Division developed info that Southern Airways Inc. (SAI) now defunct, had a contract with U.S. Army during 1960's - 1971 to provide basic helicopter pilot training to U.S. Army pilots at Ft. Wolton, Tx. (near Mineral Springs, Tx.). In 1971, SAI was notified by U.S. Army or U.S. govt. officials that this contract would be terminated and Ft. Wolton would be closed down. SAI officials and employees were upset about this situation. In 1971, then Senator John G. Tower of Tx. possibly may have been notified by SAI about this problem or Tower may have notified SAI.

Shortly after this notification, SAI senior officials published a memo to all employees requesting a \$150 political donation for the Tower campaign as a method possibly to spark Tower's interest to save Ft. Wolton. One former SAI employee ^{interviewed by SE} ~~complained~~ told that ~~the~~ \$150 was deducted from his paycheck, but returned when he complained. Another SAI former pilot instructor [redacted] advised that the contribution was voluntary and totally without duress or pressure [redacted] did not contribute.

On 2/13/89, [redacted] advised that two other former SAI pilot instructors [redacted] and [redacted] currently reside in [redacted] area and can be precisely located through [redacted]

[redacted], telephone [redacted]
OC ~~is~~ is attempting to develop info on whereabouts of numerous former SAI instructor pilots
Leads Dallas, Ft Fort Worth, Tx. Since FPO Operational HQ among
whom is [redacted] to
Contact [redacted] [redacted] resolve this issue
determine location of [redacted] and [redacted]
For interview re: \$150⁰⁰⁰ campaign contribution issue of from
~~From~~ SAI former employees in 1971.

Dictated 2/16/89
10:20AM

From: SAC, New Orleans (161A-1124)(RUC)

Priority
Unclass

To: Director, FBI
Attn: SPIN Unit
Rm 4371

Subj: John Goodwin Tower
SPIN(A)
OO: FBIHQ

Re: SE tcl to FBIHQ, 2/10/89

b6
b7C

On 2/10/89, [redacted]
[redacted] telephone [redacted] employed as [redacted]
[redacted] telephone [redacted] advised that in
1971 he was employed by Southern Airways, Inc. (now defunct) as
[redacted] Ft. Walton, Tx. (near Mineral Springs, Texas)
pursuant to a U.S. Army contract held by Southern Airways to train
U.S. Army helicopter pilots for Vietnam War duty.

As [redacted] recalls, ^{in mid-1971} a letter came to Southern Airways from the
Army or from the office of then Senator John G. Tower informing that
Ft. Walton, Tx. helicopter training facility would be closed soon and
Southern Airways contract would be discontinued due to reduction
of troop commitments to Vietnam War. All Southern Airways personnel
at Ft. Walton were very upset as they believed that this facility
was much better suited for ^{army} helicopter training than Ft. Rucker,
Ala., which would be kept open for future pilot training.

Shortly after this notice, a memo was published, possibly
by unrecalled senior Southern Airways officials, which requested
a \$150 donation to be voluntarily provided by each employee
for contribution to Senator John Tower re-election campaign. No
pressure or duress was placed upon [redacted] or any other [redacted]
[redacted] to his knowledge, to contribute. [redacted] did not contribute
as he felt this would have been useless. Sen. Tower gave no indica-
tion he would bring ^{pressure to bear} to keep Ft. Walton open and Southern Airways contract in effect.

In late 1971, Ft. Wolton, Tx. was closed by U.S. Army as earlier announced. Can they sought employment elsewhere:

Former Southern Airways employees that would be knowledgeable about the \$150 contribution incident, from [redacted] memory, would be ~~former~~ flight commanders [redacted] and [redacted]

However, [redacted] did not know current locations or employment of these persons. He ~~did~~ advised he would ~~notify~~ ~~if~~ attempt to determine locations for these persons, and, if positive info was developed, he would notify FBI.

70611

based in Fla. - N.E. of D.C. -

1971- I was serving as [redacted] to Southern Airways
- reported to [redacted]
- we trained ~~and~~ ^{U.S.} army helicopter pilots at Ft. Wolters, Mineral Springs, Tx.
- letter came down came & sd. going to close down Ft. Wolters, Tx -
- good location as opposed to Ft. Rucker, Ala. - everybody upset
- Tower was saying that was winding down - this base
- was to close - briefing from Flight Commanders to their assets
- letter came out & requesting that employees voluntarily
- contribute \$ (unrecalled amount of \$) to Turner's campaign
later - memo - Southern Airways - possibly - came out

[redacted] knowledgeable

- our other reps. were for keeping the base open
- no pressure placed on S.A. employees - nobody contributed
- that I know of - big joke

- I personally had no problem w anybody

1971 - Ft. Wolter did close

[redacted] whereabouts unknown

Bufile: 161-20403



Sen. John Tower - Sec. of Defense

OO: Bu

NO 161A-1124


Re: JF tel to FBIHQ, 2/10/89

Int:



ascertain knowledge of \$150 deduction ^{from San. Airways check} & if aware of
any co-workers receiving same deduction on their pay

JF int. former empl. of Southern Airways 1960's ^{early 70's} - doing work for
gov't training helicopter pilots

employee was short \$150 on paycheck - told that \$150 was
deduction for campaign contribution for Tower to keep
Sou. Airways & Ft. Wolters, Tx. in govt contract business
source -  former empl. of San. Airways

during 1960's-70's

Southern had training facility @ Ft. Wolton, Tx.

Tower was instrumental in closing down Ft. Wolters, Mineral Springs, Tx.

FD-448 (Rev. 3-7-88)

Transmit attached by Facsimile

PRECEDENCE:

- ☒ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- ☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☒ UNCLAS

To: *New Orleans*From: *FBIHQ (161-20403)*Date *12/13/88*Subject: *John G. Tower
SPIN(A)*

- ☐ Fingerprint Photo ☐ Fingerprint Record ☐ Map ☐ Newspaper clipping ☐ Photograph
☐ Artists Conception ☐ Teletype ☒ Other *Copy of release*

Special handling Instructions:

Hand carry to SA b6
b7CApproved: *J/pm*

161A-1124-6
Searched *JK*
Serialized *JK*
Indexed *JK*
Filed *JK*

FBI/DOJ